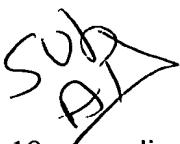


5

What is claimed is:



1. An audio reproduction apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of audio amplifiers, each being responsive to a corresponding
10 audio signal for generating audio power in a corresponding audio speaker; and
means for selectively applying a supply voltage to a first audio amplifier of
said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when
audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is
higher, and at a higher magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the
15 audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower, in a manner to
reduce a change in a total audio power generated, when a change in the mode of
operation occurs.

2. The audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further

20 comprising means for selectively enabling audio power generation in said second
audio amplifier, in said first mode of operation, and for disabling the audio power
generation in said second audio amplifier, in said second mode of operation.

3. The audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the

25 generation of the audio power in said second audio amplifier is enabled in a
surround sound mode of operation and disabled in at least one of a monaural
mode of operation and a stereo mode of operation.

4. The audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the

30 generation of the audio power in said first audio amplifier is enabled both in said
surround sound mode of operation and in said at least one of said monaural and
stereo modes of operation.

5. The audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

35 supply voltage applying means comprises a switch for selectively coupling a
source of a first supply voltage to a power supply input of said first audio
amplifier, in said first mode of operation, and a source of a second supply
voltage, in said second mode of operation.

5

6. The audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein both said first and second audio amplifiers are energized from a common power supply having a power rating that is determined by the total audio power produced in each of said first and second audio amplifiers.

10

7. A method for reproducing audio, comprising:
providing a plurality of audio amplifiers, each being responsive to a corresponding audio signal for generating audio power in a corresponding audio speaker; and

8. Selectively applying a supply voltage to a first audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers at a lower magnitude, in a first mode of operation, when audio power generated in a second audio amplifier of said audio amplifiers is higher, and at a higher magnitude, in a second mode of operation, when the audio power generated in said second audio amplifier is lower, in a manner to reduce a change in a total audio power generated, when a change in the mode of operation occurs.

9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of selectively enabling audio power generation in said second audio amplifier, in said first mode of operation, and disabling the audio power generation in said second audio amplifier, in said second mode of operation.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of enabling the generation of the audio power in said second audio amplifier in a surround sound mode of operation and disabling the generation of the audio power in said second audio amplifier in at least one of a monaural mode of operation and a stereo mode of operation.

35